

Arizona Department of Education

Educational Services
& Resources Division

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

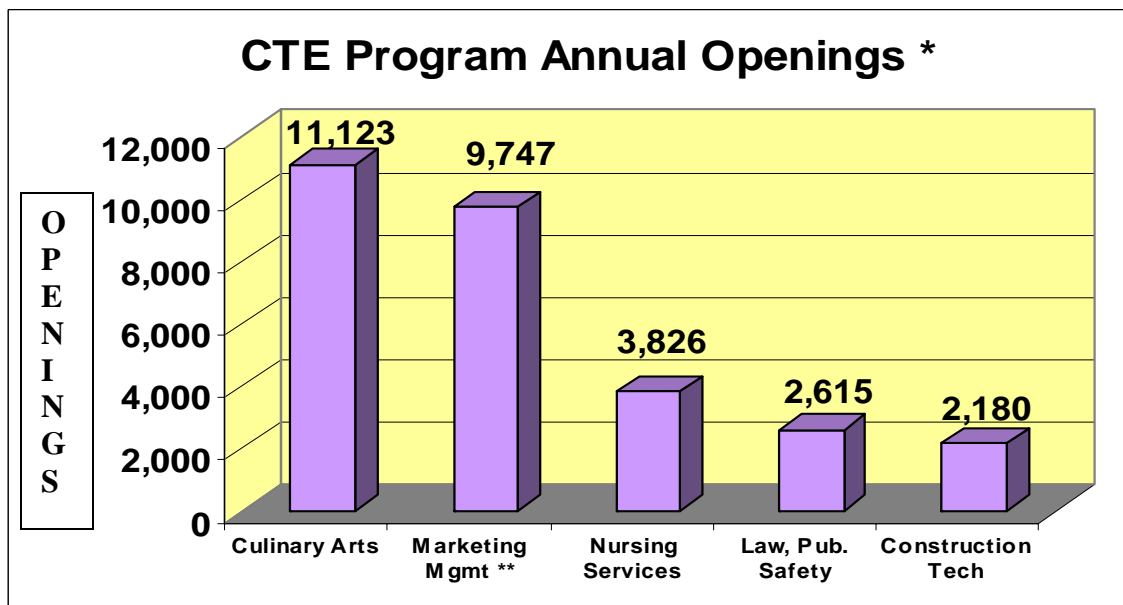
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CTE FACTS

CTE FACTS is published monthly during the school year and highlights informative educational statistics related to Career and Technical Education (CTE). The focus this school year is on Arizona CTE Core Values. This month's Core Value is:

Preparing students for high wage/high demand occupations and career pathways to enhance the competitive edge and economic development of Arizona.

The mission of CTE is to prepare Arizona students for workplace success. Some of that success is found in finding a career that's in high demand and pays a good wage. The Career and Technical Education unit uses labor market information from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, to determine the ranking of its CTE programs. By use of a formula which weighs the number of openings, wage, academic and technical skill required for a program, a determination is made as to those programs that are in high demand in Arizona. Here are the top five CTE programs having the most annual openings according to 2003-2013 occupational employment projections:



*Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

** Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship.

Many of these opportunities prepare students for careers in higher paying fields. As an example, within the Culinary Arts program, the following occupation titles exist: Food Service Manager, Chefs & Head Cooks, Managers of Food. Within the Marketing, Management and

Entrepreneurship program, the following occupational titles exist: Sales Engineers, Sales Representatives, Travel Agents, Salespersons, Retail Managers and Convention Planners.

Each has a particular degree of preparation needed to fulfill the responsibility of the job. Normally, there is a direct correlation between the amount of education preparation and higher wage.

In a related matter, the U.S. Department of Education released last summer a National Assessment of Vocational Education report on the status of CTE. Some of the following findings pertain to the earnings gains achieved by CTE students:

- Taking four high school CTE credits increases a student's average earnings by \$1,200 immediately after graduation and by \$1,800 seven years later.¹
- A single year of post-secondary career and technical education study "brought five to eight percent more earnings to post-secondary CTE students than to high school graduates with similar characteristics".²
- There are significant economic returns to postsecondary CTE with the greatest benefits for those who earn a credential (47% earnings increase for women and 30% for men).¹
- "Seven years after graduation (high school) students earned almost 2 percent more for each extra high school occupational course they took. That translates into about \$450 per course, based on average earnings of \$24,000;..."¹

FAST FACTS...

Here are some other facts regarding high wage occupations that students can enter after completing high school and college CTE related programs.....

- "With a Cisco networking associate certification you can come out of school making about \$50,000 a year. If you have no hands-on experience you can make about \$40,000."³
- Computer Science graduates are offered an average starting wage of \$49,055; Management Information Systems majors start at an average wage of \$43,953; programmers at \$44,644; private accountants average \$34,616; entry-level management \$33,494; and sales \$33,143.⁴

¹ U.S. Dept. of Education Office of the Under Secretary, Policy and Program Studies Service, *National Assessment of Vocational Education: Final Report to Congress*, Washington, D.C., 2004.

² "Department of Education Releases NAVE Report." Rev. of *National Assessment of Vocational Education: Final Report to Congress* by Techniques Magazine. Sept. 2004.

³ Williams, Claudine. "Leaving School Early." *MSN.Careers*, 1 Aug. 2001.

⁴ Bialik, Carl. "New Graduate Salaries." *MSN.Careers*, 1 Aug. 2001.

CTE Vision: Ensure a dynamic workforce by fully developing every student's career and academic potential.

CTE Mission: Prepare Arizona students for workplace success and continuous learning.

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